

consideration of the Presiding Officer, proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law, and a proposed order, together with briefs in support thereof. The Presiding Officer shall set a time by which reply briefs must be submitted. All submissions shall be in writing, shall be served upon all parties, and shall contain adequate references to the record and authorities relied on.

Subpart E—Initial Decision and Motion To Reopen a Hearing

§ 22.27 Initial decision.

(a) *Filing and contents.* The Presiding Officer shall issue and file with the Regional Hearing Clerk his initial decision as soon as practicable after the period for filing reply briefs under § 22.26 has expired. The Presiding Officer shall retain a copy of the complaint in the duplicate file. The initial decision shall contain his findings of fact, conclusions regarding all material issues of law or discretion, as well as reasons therefor, a recommended civil penalty assessment, if appropriate, and a proposed final order. Upon receipt of an initial decision, the Regional Hearing Clerk shall forward a copy to all parties, and shall send the original, along with the record of the proceeding, to the Hearing Clerk. The Hearing Clerk shall forward a copy of the initial decision to the Environmental Appeals Board.

(b) *Amount of civil penalty.* If the Presiding Officer determines that a violation has occurred, the Presiding Officer shall determine the dollar amount of the recommended civil penalty to be assessed in the initial decision in accordance with any criteria set forth in the Act relating to the proper amount of a civil penalty, and must consider any civil penalty guidelines issued under the Act. If the Presiding Officer decides to assess a penalty different in amount from the penalty recommended to be assessed in the complaint, the Presiding Officer shall set forth in the initial decision the specific reasons for the increase or decrease. The Presiding Officer shall not raise a penalty from that recommended to be assessed in the

complaint if the respondent has defaulted.

(c) *Effect of initial decision.* The initial decision of the Presiding Officer shall become the final order of the Environmental Appeals Board within forty-five (45) days after its service upon the parties and without further proceedings unless (1) an appeal to the Environmental Appeals Board is taken from it by a party to the proceedings, or (2) the Environmental Appeals Board elects, sua sponte, to review the initial decision.

[45 FR 24363, Apr. 9, 1980, as amended at 57 FR 5325, Feb. 13, 1992]

§ 22.28 Motion to reopen a hearing.

(a) *Filing and content.* A motion to reopen a hearing to take further evidence must be made no later than twenty (20) days after service of the initial decision on the parties and shall (1) state the specific grounds upon which relief is sought, (2) state briefly the nature and purpose of the evidence to be adduced, (3) show that such evidence is not cumulative, and (4) show good cause why such evidence was not adduced at the hearing. The motion shall be made to the Presiding Officer and filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

(b) *Disposition of motion to reopen a hearing.* Within ten (10) days following the service of a motion to reopen a hearing, any other party to the proceeding may file with the Regional Hearing Clerk and serve on all other parties an answer thereto. The Presiding Officer shall announce his intent to grant or deny such motion as soon as practicable thereafter. The conduct of any proceeding which may be required as a result of the granting of any motion allowed in this section shall be governed by the provisions of the applicable sections of these rules. The filing of a motion to reopen a hearing shall automatically stay the running of all time periods specified under these Rules until such time as the motion is denied or the reopened hearing is concluded.